

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising steps of:

- (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;
- (b) introducing an aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount ~~sufficient~~ to cover the tissue ~~processing~~ embedding mold;
- (c) heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue ~~processing~~ embedding mold;
- (d) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the heated aqueous cleaning solution for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue ~~processing~~ embedding mold melts from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution;
- (e) passing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; and
- (f) repeating steps (b) - (e) until the tissue ~~processing~~ embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
agitating the aqueous cleaning solution to facilitate removal of paraffin from the
tissue embedding mold.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the aqueous cleaning solution is
agitated by heating the aqueous cleaning solution to at least the boiling point of the
aqueous cleaning solution.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the aqueous cleaning solution prior to introducing the
aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning
vessel.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
introducing the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution passed from the mold
receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank provided with a plurality
of baffles;
heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the
paraffin;
maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of
the paraffin;
passing the paraffin containing aqueous solution by the upper ends of the baffles
where the paraffin in the paraffin containing aqueous cleaning solution

solidifies on the upper ends of the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing solution to produce a treated aqueous cleaning solution; and
passing the treated aqueous cleaning solution from the tank.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising step of:
passing the treated aqueous cleaning solution into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of removing the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for removing paraffin from a tissue embedding mold, comprising steps of:

- (a) placing the tissue embedding mold in a mold receiving chamber of a cleaning vessel;
- (b) introducing a ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel in an amount ~~sufficient~~ to cover the tissue embedding mold;
- (c) maintaining the tissue embedding mold in the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent for a selected period of time wherein at least a portion of the paraffin on the tissue embedding mold dissolves from the tissue embedding mold to produce a paraffin containing ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent;

- (d) passing the paraffin containing ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel; and
- (e) repeating steps (b) - (d) until the tissue embedding mold is substantially free of paraffin.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
heating the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent to at least the melting point of the paraffin contained on the tissue embedding mold.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
agitating the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent to facilitate removal of paraffin from the tissue embedding mold.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent is agitated by heating the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent to at least the boiling point of the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising step of:
introducing a surfactant to the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent prior to introducing the ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent into the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of:
introducing the paraffin containing ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent
passed from the mold receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel into a tank
provided with a plurality of baffles;
heating a lower end of the baffles to a temperature at least the melting point of the
paraffin;
maintaining an upper end of the baffles at a temperature below the melting point of
the paraffin;
passing the paraffin containing ~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent by the
upper ends of the baffles where the paraffin in the paraffin containing
~~cleaning solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent solidifies on the upper ends of
the baffles thereby separating the paraffin from the paraffin containing
~~solution~~ paraffin dissolving solvent to produce a treated ~~cleaning~~ paraffin
dissolving solvent solution; and
passing the treated ~~cleaning~~ paraffin dissolving solvent solution from the tank.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13 further comprising step of:
passing the treated ~~cleaning~~ paraffin dissolving solvent solution into the mold
receiving chamber of the cleaning vessel.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of removing
the paraffin from the upper ends of the baffles.